

## **2015 Mississippi Autism Board**

October 30, 2015 9:30 am

401 Mississippi Street

Jackson, MS 39201

### **MINUTES**

A fourth, special meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Friday, October 30, 2015, at 9:32 a.m. at the Secretary of State’s Office in the Heber Ladner Building, 401 Mississippi Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

**Present:** James Moore-Chairman, Kasee Stratton-Secretary, Nicole Boyd- Board Member (teleconference), Emily Johnson-Board Member, Preston Goff – Assistant Secretary of State, Mississippi Secretary of State, Members of the public - Sarah Broom, Marti Allen and Wayne Williams.

### **CALL TO ORDER-**

Dr. James Moore, Chairman, welcomed representatives and guests in attendance from the Mississippi Psychology Board, Mississippi Center for Autism, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi. Opening remarks were provided for this special meeting to allow for formal comments on the Rules and Regulations that have been open for public comment for 30 days.

### **First Matter of Business**

The first matter of business brought by the Board regarded approval of the October 2, 2015 Board meeting minutes. A motion was made by Johnson to accept the minutes as presented and seconded by Moore. During discussion it was noted of a misspelling for Ms. Neelima Duncan under the third matter of business. Accepting this review, the Board unanimously passed the motion.

### **Second Matter of Business**

The second matter of business allowed for formal public comment regarding the published Rules and Regulations for the Licensure of Behavior Analysts and Assistant Behavior Analysts. Stratton noted a minor edit on Rule 6.4 to reflect BACB, rather than BCBA. Chairman Moore reflected concern that the guild organization for behavior analysis in Mississippi had not provided any further feedback. Dr. Allen stated that an oral examination may be helpful as the “Board has a responsibility to the public to verify the individual is a competent behavior analyst.” Additionally, Dr. Allen noted that the Rules and Regulations could be edited in the future to reflect the process of the oral examination. Dr. Johnson further noted a workgroup is in process; however, upon approval of initial application, additional information and structure for the oral examination would be presented.

A question was posed regarding who may use the term “behavior analyst.” The statute was specifically referenced regarding the term “licensed behavior analyst” as those who are licensed by the Mississippi Autism Board. Proactive steps to inform the public, while also considering professions working within their scope of practice will be needed.

**Third Matter of Business**

A motion was made by Chairman Moore to accept and adopt the Rules and Regulations pending Title changes and Rule 6.4 edits. Johnson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A discussion of application and other necessary forms for submission to the Board followed. Johnson made a motion to accept forms as revised during this session and Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

No new business was brought forward to the Board.

**Conclusion of Meeting**

In closing, Chairman Moore and the Board thanked guest for their comments and support. Chairman Moore expressed that he had hoped to see Medicaid present today and at our previous meetings. He will provide a detailed email regarding the approved Rules and Regulations and forms once revised and a target date to accept applications by the end of the year. With no further business, Stratton moved to adjourn, Johnson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.